



- Home
- Platform
- Campaign
- Press Release
- Contribute
- Ex-Mayors
- Biography
- Coverage
- Press
- Toronto
- Twitter**
- People
- Pictures
- Video
- Audio
- Cancer
- Fluoride
- Vaccines
- Health
- Wealth
- Relationships
- Articles
- Thoughts
- Music
- Blog
- Links
- FAQ

Twitter



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IMHO, a word to the wise about the possible effects of "Twitter", "Text" and "Chat" on "Us".



Our communication with each other defines our relationships which our happiness is based on. The problem is there's a larger corporate agenda influencing the ways we communicate to control us more easily. While it's been happening for a while, millions of people worldwide know it, so everyone in Toronto can too. Then we can all help resist its effects on all of us, communicate and feel better.

We can still keep all our favourite tools and toys, but we should also figure out how they work to change our behaviour over time. Most of us have long-term goals and dreams, but we also spend most of our time just planning for the short term. Big corporations and other big institutions often make 50 year business plans, including how to take us along a series of steps we're going through now.

Right now, our ability to think and communicate is being stunted by the technology we use every day. While text messaging, chatting and so on can be fun, it also shortens our attention spans. We might be okay with it, until we try to talk to somebody, or somebody tries to talk to us, and it's not fulfilling. This stuff has been changing how and if we talk. We should cut back on it and talk when we can.

Being less able to communicate our feelings and receive good feedback makes us feel lonely, even when we're among friends, who may seem less friendly. We also think a lot less about what we want to say since many people don't have the patience to hear it. This bottles up our emotions and we're less creative with how we express ourselves. This causes us to like and respect each other less.

One reason we see big corporations advertising "Smart Phones" everywhere is because they want to make us dumber. There's lots of "Orwellian double-think" in advertising, but generally speaking, if anything is being heavily promoted everywhere, then it's probably not good for us. We might not notice at first, but over time as our relationships suffer, we should start to wonder why and look for answers.

The key thing to remember is that once we learn this stuff, we can all finally see who's really

guilty for giving us our education and choices and realize most of our problems aren't our fault. We can stop feeling guilty, which make us feel stronger. Then we can take simple steps to protect ourselves and compensate for the effects of technology. Then we can all feel and get along better. It's just that easy.

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Twitter and comments on message boards and YouTube videos have also changed how we feel about each other. We often force each other to say something short and silly or stupid, but then we complain about it. Conversations consist of 8 word broken sentences, like a lot of emails today. Little is discussed in-depth, so we find each other less interesting and don't allow each other to speak freely.

YouTube and other comment boards are full of bizarre, pointless, self-indulgent and yet unfulfilling blurts to nobody in cyberspace. They're more than forgettable wastes of time, they help reinforce our isolation. The same thing with Twitter, which is mostly updates, fights and short angry or happy bursts of nonsense. It can be fun, but the way it changes us will make life less fun, so we should cut back.

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Below is info that can help explain what's happening. The reason it's important for the Mayor campaign is it's also how we're being politically disempowered. To compensate, instead of defending what we hear, usually from a large corporation pushing a "left" or "right" point of view, we should work with each other to figure out the best answers from both sides. The truth beats both "left" and "right".

Everyone can think for themselves, so we should be open to learning more about the world we live in and deciding what to believe. This will also make us feel less paranoid about each other. Yes, there is serious government and corporate corruption affecting us, but it feels a lot scarier when we feel scared to look at it. Once we do, just like many others, we'll feel better because we'll figure out how to.

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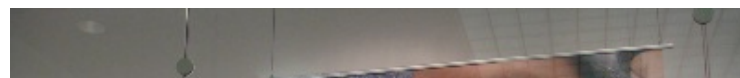
Warm regards,

Vijay

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New York Times: Antisocial Networking?

"HEY, you're a dork," said the girl to the boy with a smile. "Just wanted you to know."

Andy Wilson, 11, left, and his brother Evan, 14, go on Facebook in their treehouse in Atlanta.

"Thanks!" said the boy.

"Just kidding," said the girl with another smile. "You're only slightly dorky, but other than that, you're pretty normal — sometimes."

They both laughed.

"See you tomorrow," said the boy.

"O.K., see you," said the girl.

It was a pretty typical pre-teen exchange, one familiar through the generations. Except this one had a distinctly 2010 twist. It was conducted on Facebook. The smiles were colons with brackets. The laughs were typed ha ha's. "O.K." was just "K" and "See you" was rendered as "c ya."

Children used to actually talk to their friends.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/02/fashion/02BEST.html?_r=1

UK Telegraph: Mobile phone text messaging is making children more impulsive, claim researchers

Prof Abramson, an epidemiologist at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, said: "The kids who used their phones a lot were faster on some of the tests, but were less accurate.

"We suspect that using mobile phones a lot, particularly tools like predictive texts for SMS, is training them to be fast but inaccurate.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/news/6005772/Mobile-phone-text-messaging-is-making-children-more-impulsive-claim-researchers.html>

The UK Sunday Times: Why texting harms your IQ

That is the claim of psychologists who have found that tapping away on a mobile phone or computer keypad or checking them for electronic messages temporarily knocks up to 10 points off the user's IQ.

This rate of decline in intelligence compares unfavourably with the four-point drop in IQ associated with smoking marijuana, according to British researchers, who have labelled the fleeting phenomenon of enhanced stupidity as "infomania".

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/student/news/article384086.ece

One India: Facebook and Twitter affect teens' health

The research commissioned by Telstra also revealed that 65 percent of parents with children using social media say it distracts them from their homework, contributing to lethargic learning.

The research revealed 84 percent of 14 to 17 year old children use a social network and almost half of 10 to 13 year old use sites such as Facebook.

<http://news.oneindia.in/2010/07/18/facebooktwitter-making-kidsdumber.html>

Suite 101: Health Risk of Social Networking

Lack of Time Results in Changed Behaviour

Social networks don't give their users the time to assess the value of each status update. The current incoming of new information forces the user to pass on to the next one without reconsidering what he just read or saw. In the long run, such a habit forms insensitive and numb personalities, as they are reading the most intimate and sometimes most horrible details of other's lives without the need of reacting to them as they would have to in a real conversation.

<http://www.suite101.com/content/health-risk-of-social-networking-a109836>

New York Times: The Health Effects of Social Networking

Lady Greenfield (she's a neuroscientist and a baroness) told The Daily Mail:

"My fear is that these technologies are infantilizing the brain into the state of small children who are attracted by buzzing noises and bright lights, who have a small attention span and who live for the moment."

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/24/the-health-effects-of-social-networking/>

CKLN Radio: The Bankers' CIA Cultural Cold War, Thinking, Feeling, Txt Msgng, Orwellian Newspeak and You

Note: This is a popular episode of my morning radio show where I covered this in detail -- Vij

<http://www.radio4all.net/index.php/program/44440>





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